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Model United Nations Practicum

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MODEL UNITED NATIONS PRACTICUM DIPL 2200

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Office Hours: Before and after class and by appointment

May 2000
M-F 3:00-6:00 pm
Kozlowski Hall 117

Course Description and Objectives

This is a unique course designed for students who want to learn about the United Nations through readings, lectures, and diplomatic role playing. The goals of the course are to equip students with a basic understanding of the UN System and to provide them with an opportunity to apply the concepts and ideas that they have learned in other diplomacy classes to a hands-on simulation of the UN General Assembly. Students will learn the skills necessary for effective group interaction such as working together as a team, conveying your ideas through written and verbal proposals, understanding the perspectives of other participants, and problem solving through negotiation, bargaining, and compromise.

The course will be divided into two sections. The first half of the course will prepare students for the Model UN exercise by providing basic background information on the United Nations (including its purposes, structure, and procedures) and on the possible issues that could be addressed in the simulation. The second half of the course will be devoted to the Model UN General Assembly covering four current global issues selected by the class.

In order to successfully complete this course, it is essential that students attend every class session, complete all of the required readings, and participate effectively in the simulation. The unique nature of the course means that the benefits students will gain from taking it (such as a better understanding of the conflicting perspectives and complex political dynamics that are a key part of global policymaking) depend entirely on the amount of effort they are willing to put into it.

Course Materials

Three books have been ordered for this class at the Seton Hall bookstore.

The United Nations: International Organization and World Politics by Lawrence Ziring, Robert Riggs, and Jack Plano. Harcourt Brace, 2000.

A Global Agenda: Issues Before the 54th General Assembly of the United Nations edited by John Tessitore and Susan Woolfson. Rowman & Littlefield, 1999.

A Guide to Delegate Preparation 1999-2000 edited by Gregory B. Julian and John R. Gagain, Jr. UNA-USA, 1999.

In addition, a small packet of information which includes the rules of procedure will be distributed in class. Finally, students should plan on closely following current events throughout the course. The best way to accomplish this is to spend 30 minutes every day reading a paper that provides thorough coverage of international news (such as *The New York Times*). Students may obtain access to many high quality papers on the internet or read them in Walsh Library. Also, students can follow current events by watching a national evening newscast, watching an all news cable channel, or by listening to National Public Radio in the morning and evening.

Student Responsibilities

Class Participation (20% of course grade): Students are required to do the assigned reading before class and to participate in class discussion on a regular basis. The quality of class sessions is greatly enhanced when students are prepared to engage the course material in a constructive fashion.

An important part of class participation for this course is the Model UN exercise. All students will be required to represent a specific member state during the simulation. Country and issue selections will be made during the first class session, **Wednesday, May 10th**. Participation will be evaluated based on how well each student is able to represent their country's interests on the issues. Specifically, students must attend each Assembly session, engage in caucusing both during and outside of class, give speeches at the conference, circulate working papers, evaluate the proposals of other delegations, and demonstrate that they understand the rules of procedure.

Midterm Quiz (10% of course grade): The midterm will be a combination of geography identification questions and short answer questions covering basic information about the UN System, selected issue areas, and the rules of procedure for simulation. Study questions will be provided. It is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 17th**.

Country Profile (10% of course grade): Each student will write a 4-6 page paper that provides the necessary background for them to represent their country at the conference. They are due on **Thursday, May 18th**. These papers should be sure to address the following points:

- discussion of your country's position and interests in the world
- background on your country's past role in the United Nations
- discussion on how your country relates to the other states in your region
- some indication of which issues covered in the conference will be most important to your country

The course readings will provide some assistance on these papers but students must engage in extra research in order to do an adequate job. Students should consult a wide variety of sources including UN documents, government publications, periodicals, scholarly journals, reference books, and organization web pages. Be sure to cite all necessary information in the text of your paper and provide a complete bibliography at the end of your paper.

Working Papers (four papers, 10% each, 40% of course grade in all): Every student will also complete four working papers during the course of the conference. Each of these will focus on one of the issues on the conference agenda and include three parts:

- 1) a one page discussion of your country's position on the issue in question, with citations
- 2) a 1-2 page draft resolution (in the appropriate form) that best represents the interests of your country
- 3) a one page discussion of possible strategies to use in the negotiation

Working papers will be due on **Friday, May 19th, Monday, May 22nd, Tuesday, May 23rd, and Wednesday, May 24th**. The exact order in which the four issues of the conference will be covered by these papers depends on the agenda adopted by the class on the conference preparation day (May 17th). In order to circulate their ideas with other delegates, each student should bring several copies of their draft resolution (part two of the working paper) with them to class.

Evaluation Paper (20% of course grade): There is no final exam for this course. Instead, each student will write a 5-7 page paper that evaluates the conference, especially in terms of the role played by the country they represented. These papers are due on **Tuesday, May 30th** in the morning. The following questions should be addressed:

- did you achieve the goals of the country you represented? why or why not?
- which countries did you work best with? why? worst with? why?
- when did you feel your country had the most influence? why?
- when did the procedures help or hinder the negotiating process? why?
- what was your personal experience at the conference?

The evaluation paper is different from the other papers in that little (if any) additional research will be required. Instead, the focus of the evaluation paper is on your personal experiences, opinions, and reactions to the conference. Feel free to refer to class readings or your earlier research where appropriate, but you are not expected to include extensive citations. However, you must be careful to provide specific examples from the conference to support each of the points you make.

COURSE TOPICS AND READINGS

May 10	Introduction Select countries and issues.
May 11	Basics on the UN Read Ziring pages 1-65 and skim 485-541. Read Julian pages 2-12 and skim 185-271.
May 12	UN Political Processes Read Ziring pages 66-141 and skim over the sections covering the four issues we selected. Read Julian pages 14-45 and skim pages 154-182.
May 15	Issues Skim Tessitore volume, reading closely all sections that relate to the four issues on our agenda. Also, look over UN homepage, again focusing on pages relating to our four issues.
May 16	Rules of Procedure and Country Discussion Read Julian pages 48-152. Thoroughly study the rules of procedure packet distributed in class.
May 17	Midterm Quiz and Conference Preparation Day No new ready for today. Focus on studying for the midterm and completing your position papers. In class after the midterm we will be setting the agenda and engaging in preliminary caucusing.
May 18	Opening Session and Country Profiles Due No new reading for today. Finish your country profiles and be ready to give your opening statements to the conference.
May 19	Conference Session 2 and Working Paper 1 Due
May 22	Conference Session 3 and Working Paper 2 Due
May 23	Conference Session 4 and Working Paper 3 Due
May 24	Conference Session 5 and Working Paper 4 Due
May 25	Closing Session Conference wrap-up including voting on all resolutions introduced into debate and debriefing for the evaluation papers.
May 26	Class Cancelled
Evaluation papers due Tuesday, May 30th by 10 am. They can be turned in by email (smithcou@shu.edu) or fax (973-275-2519).	